

Every thing I have seen or read about the use of the power line grid in this country for the transmission of wide-band communications leads me to believe this will so pollute the HF spectrum as to make it unusable.

Amateur Radio plays an integral part in the disaster relief activities of the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. These agencies rely heavily on Amateur Radio HF communications for assistance in emergencies. If the HF spectrum were to be so polluted by interference from the power grid as to be unusable, lives could be lost because reliable HF communications could not be established or maintained. Nobody wants to see that happen. Only you can prevent it.

In the area of life and safety, the FAA uses HF communications in its air traffic control activities and the U.S. military utilizes HF communications in national defense. FEMA (in its present incarnation under the Department of Homeland Security) uses HF for emergency communications. All of these would be adversely affected by the interference generated by BPL.

Some of the "non-hobby" aspects of Amateur Radio that would suffer as a result of the interference caused by the proposed use of BPL include the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and the National Weather Service's "hurricane watch." ARES and RACES activities, as a result of planning being done in the aftermath of 9/11, are being incorporated into local, county, and state emergency action plans as part of their communications support. The "hurricane watch" is a life-saving tool the National Weather Service depends on for information it cannot otherwise obtain. In addition, the Department of Veterans Affairs, as a matter of official policy, now stresses the installation of HF Amateur Radio stations in their hospitals for use as emergency back-up communications. The loss or severe degradation of the HF spectrum would severely impact the functioning of these groups in an emergency.

This technology has been examined and rejected by other countries. I urge the FCC to do the same.

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